Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

OPIC-03 AID-05 H-02 NSC-05 /050 W ------ 118309

P R 300902Z MAY 75 FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2767 AMCONSUL BUKAVU AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

CONFIDENTIAL KINSHASA 4481

E. O. 11652: GDS TAGS: ECON, EINV, CG

SUBJECT: GOZ TAKEOVER OF PHARMACEUTICAL SECTOR

- 1. GOZ RECENTLYANNOUNCED INTENTION OF TAKING CONTROL OF ENTIRE PHARMACEUTICAL SECTOR, BOTH IMPORT AND DISTRIBUTION. IT FAIRLY CLEAR THAT MODALITIES AND EXTENT OF REAL GOZ CONTROL TO BE EXERCISED HAVE NOT RPT NOT YET BEEN DEFINED WITHIN GOZ ITSELF.
- 2. AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES HAVE CONSIDERABLE INTERESTS AT STAKE HERE. EMBASSY IS PLANNING TODISCUSS WITH RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS OF GOZ, NOW BEFORE IRREVOCABLE COMMITMENT MADE TO SPECIFIC COURSE OF ACTION, NOT ONLY QUESTIONS RAISED BY US COMPANIES AFFECTED BUT ALSO POTENTIAL PROBLEMS TO BE FACED BY GOZ IN IMPLEMENTING SUCH A PROGRAM.
- 3. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT UNISIA HAS ALREADY UNDERTAKEN SIMILAR PROGRAM IN PHARMACEUTICAL FIELD AND HAS ENCOUNTERED SIGNIFICANT DIFFICULTIES. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY TUNIS PASSING TO US GIST OF MOST PERSISTENT PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY GOT. WHILE IT CONFIDENTIAL

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EVIDENT THAT MAJOR EMBASSY GOAL IN DISCUSSIONS WITH

GOZ WILL BE TO DISCOURGAGE ON GROUND OF PRACTICALITY AND POTENTIAL DANGER TO LOCAL POPULACE ANY OVERLY AMBITIOUS PROGRAM WHICH WOULD INCIDENTALLY BE INJURIOUS TO US COMMERICAL INTERESTS, IT ALSO INADVISABLE THAT WE NOT STICK OUR HEADS IN THE SAND. THUS, WE ALSO NEED TO BE AWARE OF SIGIFICANT SUCCESSES, IF ANY, IN THEIR ENDEAVORS.

4. AS EMBASSY/GOZ DIALOGUE BEING INITIATED FORTHWITH, EARLIEST POSSIBLE RESPONSE WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED. HINTON

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To: TUNIS

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